STORY
RYOU MIZUNO
ART
JUN SASAMEYUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS MAMORU YOKOTA
LOUIE THE
RUNE SOLDIER
VOL. 4

LOUIE the RUNE SOLDIER

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THE STORY SO FAR

The life of a soldier was never the life for Louie, who always enjoyed the R&R more than the battle. When he was approached by three lovely ladies who vowed to follow him wherever he may take them, he thought that luck was on his side, but destiny was really to blame. Forced into his true path and onto the adventure trail, Louie was slowly becoming the sorcerer he was meant to be. From battling demons to escaping elvish prisons, the Rune Soldier has found more trouble in this short time than in all his years of barhopping. But just when his ego reached its breaking point, the sauce-swiggin' sorcerer was outsmarted. Now, the ultimate bachelor has been duped into a betrothal, and he'll have to lean on his ladies to pull him out of a mess that will ruin his adventures and end his womanizing ways!

IN THE NORTH-WESTERN REGION OF ALECRAST...
THE GREAT HERO RUARL FOUNDED HIS OWN KINGDOM— **OHFUN,**
ALSO KNOWN AS "THE KINGDOM OF THE SWORD."
HOW-EVER, OHFUN'S CAPITAL CITY...
PEOPLE CALL THIS INSTITUTE THE **SORCERER'S GUILD.**
IS HOME TO ONE OF THE FINEST SCHOOLS OF MAGIC.

LOUIE the RUNE SOLDIER

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STORY RYOU MIZUNO • ART JUN SASAMEYUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS MAMORU YOKOTA
P.2-3 CG WORK MITSURU YAMAZAKI

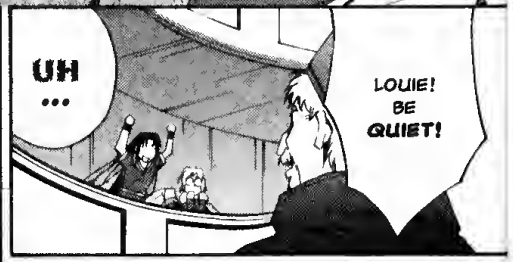
UNFORTU-
NATELY FOR
CARWESS,
HIS SON IS
A **REBEL**
WHO
CHOOSES
TO WALK THE
PATH OF THE
WARRIOR!
ONE OF
THE STUDENTS
AT THE
ILLUSTRIOUS
SORCERER'S
GUILD IS THE
ADOPTED SON
OF **CARWESS,**
THE GREATEST
MAGE IN ALL
THE LAND.
ADVENTURE 17
INTENSIVE TRAINING!
THE SORCERER'S GUILD

WELL, I'LL BE!
WHAT WE CALL THE ANCIENT MAGICAL LANGUAGES ...
AND THEREFORE...
LOUIE!
HM?
WH-WHAT'S WITH THE...
THE WHAT? YOU MEAN THESE GLASS-ES?
WHAT'S UP, ILA?
Yo!
...

I'VE DECIDED THAT FROM NOW ON I'M GOING TO TAKE STUDYING MAGIC SERI-OUSLY.
MOOD?
WELL, I FIGURED IT'D HELP GET ME IN THE MOOD.
FOR WHAT?
WHADDYA THINK I AM, SOME KINDA CHEAP-ASS MAGICAL WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE?
うそおおお!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WHAAT?!
YOU STUDYING? IS THIS THE SAME GUY I KNOW, WHO DOES NOTHING BUT WORK OUT EVERY SINGLE DAY?
NEXT THING I KNOW YOU'LL BE TELLING ME YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT SNOW IN THE SUMMER!

OH, LOUIE! YOU'RE SUCH A MAGICAL RUNE SOLDIER! ~♡
IF I PUT MY MIND TO IT, I'M SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO USE SOME TOTALLY SWEET MAGIC!
THEY WON'T BE TRASH-TALKIN' ME LIKE THAT ANYMORE!

WELL,
IT'S NOT JUST THAT. THERE'S ANOTHER PRETTY IMPORTANT THING I REALIZED:
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A RUNE SOLDIER, THAT IS.


UH ...
LOUIE! BE QUIET!

AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SERIOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
DAMN
CAN'T A GUY GET A LITTLE PSYCHED?

HEY, WHY NOT KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS TO YOURSELF?
Have some respect!
I'VE GOT IT!
EVEN YOUR BRAINS HAVE FINALLY TURNED TO MUSCLE!

WHAT KIND OF "SORCERER" CAN'T USE MAGIC?
MERRILL'S ALWAYS ...
WE NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN USE MAGIC. I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THIS MAN...
AND MELISSA SAYS...
WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN'T USE A SWORD, EITHER!
THEN GENIE, SHE'S ALL...

THE TRUTH IS,
THOSE THREE HAVE BEEN MOCKING THE HELL OUT OF ME LATELY.

BUT...
THAT'S ONLY 'CUZ I NEVER REALLY TRIED LEARNING!
IT MAY BE TRUE THAT I'M NOT ANY GOOD WITH MAGIC...

YOU JUST WATCH!
I'M GONNA BECOME THE STRONGEST WARRIOR OF 'EM ALL!
LOUIE! GO STAND IN THE HALL!
UH...
GWAHAHA!

OH, TOO BAD...
HEY, ILA! WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME?!
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS CRAP!
HUH?

IN A WAY, THAT MADE THEM WAY BETTER THAN NORMAL FIGHTERS!
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT...
ORIGINALLY, THE RUNE SOLDIERS ...
WERE SORCERERS WHO DIDN'T EVEN LIKE FIGHTING,
BUT I GUESS THEY COULD USE THEIR MAGIC IN BATTLE.

I,
LOUIE, MAY EVEN SURPASS KING RIJARL...
WHO ONCE SLEW A DRAGON AND BECAME KNOWN AS A GREAT HERO THROUGHOUT THE LAND!

Ah!
FOUND IT!
THE SPELL'S CALLED "STONE SERVANT."
IT SHOULD BE IN WITH THE EASIER SPELLS...
IT'S THE LONG-
AWAITED RETURN OF... MY MAGE STAFF!
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO DRAMATIC ABOUT IT.
THE STONE IS NOW IN PLACE!
thmp
ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO IT!
DAI-DA-DA-DAAA!
NOW CONCENTRATE, LOUIE!
I KNOW, I KNOW!

SO, DO YOU KNOW ANY SPELLS THAT COULD BE USED IN A FIGHT?
OVER HERE LOOKS FINE.
WELL, LET'S SEE...
YOU COULD USE THIS ROCK...
WHOA! NOW THAT SOUNDS COOL!
IT'S A SPELL TO CREATE STONE GOLEMS.
TO CALL FORTH SOME POWERFUL COMPANIONS. HOW ABOUT THAT?
COM-PANIONS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I... I DID IT!
HOW YA LIKE THAT? WITNESS THE POWER OF LOUIE THE GREAT!
BWA HA HA!
RRRUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴ...
えっ?
HUH?!
THIS CALLS FOR SOME HARD-CORE PRACTICE ...
TAKE THAT!
ZWUM
NOW, HOLD ON A SECOND, LOUIE.
ZWORSH
AND THAT!
AND THAT!

YAAAH!
KRK モゴ
モゴ KRKK
ALL RIGHT! IT WORKED!
ヒット
SHPAWAA

I DON'T THINK THEY CARE!
BUT I MADE THEM!
THEY'LL ATTACK ANYTHING THEY SEE!
WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?
WE HAVE TO DISPEL THEM, QUICK!
WAUGH!
PANG!
B-BWOMM
AIEE!

THAT'S NICE AND ALL, BUT...
UH, LOUIE?
I'VE GOT THIS SPELL DOWN PAT!
YES!!
YOU WERE THINKING OF BATTLE, RIGHT?
WHEN YOU MADE THESE GUYS...
I KNEW IT!!
RUMBLE
THEN, IF THE SPELL WAS BOTCHED...
IT COULD MEAN...

YEARRRGH
LOUIE?
K-THWMP
FWIP
CHOMP
ENOUGH'S ENOUGH, DAMMIT!
THIS IS REALLY STARTING ...

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
HEY...
I KNOW THAT!
WE DON'T WANT TO GET THE OTHER STUDENTS INVOLVED!
O... OKAY!
gya!
GASP
THEN BORROW SOME ENERGY FROM ALE!
GRAB
I FORGOT THE CANCEL-LATION SPELL!
I GOT SO WRAPPED UP IN CREATING THE GOLEMS
USE YOUR MAGIC TO FLY YOURSELF OUTTA HERE, ILA!
キーったがら!!
!KNOW!
AND MEMORIZE THAT SPELL!
GRRR
I LEFT MY MAGE STAFF IN MY ROOM!
YOU IDIOT!

I'M GONNA...
KICK YOUR ASSES...
LOUIE STYLE!!
CRACK
TO PISS ME OFF!!
CRUMBLE
CHARGE-UP COMPLETE!
NOW COME GET SOME, YA BASTARDS!

SEE,
I CALL MYSELF A MAGICAL "RUNE SOLDIER"...
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
IT'S MORE LIKE I'M A SOLDIER WHO CAN ALSO USE MAGIC!
AAAH.
NOW THAT WAS REFRESHING!
LOUIE...
I GUESS
THAT BRAWL JUST NOW MADE ME REALIZE IT, BUT IF I'M FIGHTING...
USING MAGIC JUST DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.
CLENCH
I GUESS I'M BETTER OFF USING THESE.
ILA.
PHEW...
FWAP
OH. UH, SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO GET YOU INVOLVED.
YOU JUST BIT OFF A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU COULD CHEW.
GIGGLE

HEH-HEH!!
I'M BACK TO HOW I WAS BEFORE!
SHADDUP!
IF I LEARN IT RIGHT, I CAN DO ANY OF THAT STUFF!
Stupid amateur!!
I'm not so sure...
WE'RE ONLY ASKING YOU TO USE NORMAL SPELLS!!
NOBODY EVER ASKED YOU TO FIGHT USING MAGIC.
MORON!
バカ!
HEY!
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU STILL CAN'T USE SWORDS OR MAGIC.
SIGH
THUD
WILL YOU SHUT UP?!
MAAN, WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
CRASH
AND I WANNA DO MORE TRAINING!
ARGH! I WANNA GO ON AN ADVENTURE, DAMMIT!
Whoa!

OH, CRAP.
LOUIE!
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU UP TO NOW?!
おそらく
Maybe...
ha ha ha...
GUESS THIS MEANS I'M SUSPENDED, HUH?
AND, SO!
OH WELL...

YES. MY NAME IS LUDA.
I BELONG TO GENIE'S TRIBE, THE ALEIDE. I CAME ALL THE WAY...
FROM OUR HOMETOWN IN THE YASGALN MOUNTAINS.
She's not REALLY Genie's sister.
So that means...
LUDA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GENIE! OUR VILLAGE...
IS IN GRAVE DANGER!

ADVENTURE 18
GENIE'S CIRCUMSTANCES

ADVENTURE 18

GENIE'S CIRCUMSTANCES

OUR WARRIORS ARE TRYING TO FIGHT THEM OFF WITH THE FEW WEAPONS WE HAVE.
BUT MANY HAVE BEEN INJURED.
WE HAD AN OUT OF SEASON SNOWSTORM THE OTHER DAY... AND THEN THEY CAME.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP, GENIE!!
!F WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, THE VILLAGE WILL BE DESTROYED!

FINE.
I'LL HELP YOU.

MAYBE I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO COME ASKING FOR YOUR HELP...
BUT RIGHT NOW, WE REALLY NEED YOU!

LUDA.
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW! YOU COULD BE OUR LEADER!

WHAT HAPPENED, LUDA?
GENIE...
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, JUST BURSTING IN HERE?!
SWP

WHAT? AT THIS TIME OF YEAR?

THE SNOW QUEENS SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE VILLAGE.

THOSE THINGS ARE GOING ON A RAMPAGE IN YOUR VILLAGE?
MY TRIBE CALLS THEM SNOW QUEENS.
THE FRAU-- THE ICE SPIRITS.
I GUESS SO...
SNOW QUEENS? WHAT'S THAT?

ジーニが……
YOU MEAN...
オレを……!?
YOU WANT ME TO COME?

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, GENIE!
I'll do my best!
ALL RIGHT! TIME FOR AN ADVENTURE!!
WELL, OBVIOUSLY!
UH...
ALL RIGHT, BRING IT ON!!
IF SHE NEED'S YOU, THEN SHE'S GONNA NEED US AS WELL!
YOU GUYS ARE COMIN', TOO, RIGHT?

OH, BIG SIS!
BUT AS AN ADVENTURER, NOT YOUR LEADER.
GENIE...
YES, I'LL GO.
HM...
UH, YEAH...
HUH? DID SOMEONE SAY ADVENTURE?!
THEN I CAN GO, TOO, RIGHT?
YEAH, WELL... I GUESS I'LL NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME.

I RIPPED MY PANTS!
YEARCH!
RIP
CHOSEN BY THE GODS,
I AM THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR, LOUIE!!
SHADDUP!
HE'S OUR BAG BOY.
Moron
WHO CAN'T USE A SWORD OR MAGIC.
AS YOU CAN SEE, HE IS AN IDIOT.
GENIE, WHEN THIS IS ALL SETTLED...
PLEASE COME BACK TO THE VILLAGE.
GRAB
NOT EXACTLY, BUT YOU'RE PRETTY CLOSE.
OH, IS THAT ALL? YOUR BAG CARRIER ...
AAH
Uh, you were WORRYING about this?

LUDA, WAS IT?
Don't get smart with us!
K-BONK!
geh
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, GUYS.
AND THIS IS MERRILL.
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M GENIE'S FRIEND, MELISSA.
WE'LL ACCOMPANY YOU.
THANKS.
I GUESS THEY'RE HER ADVENTURER FRIENDS.
STAMP
LISTEN, AND BE AMAZED!
YOU MEAN ME?!
BY THE WAY, WHO IS THIS MAN?
ONCE WE TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER, I'M SURE GENIE WILL...

HUH?
はあ?
I WONDER IF GENIE WILL BE ALL RIGHT...
Huh?
WHADDYA MEAN?
AND? WHAT'RE YOU ALL WORRIED ABOUT?
WHY?
WELL... SHE MIGHT BE GOING BACK TO HER VILLAGE!
a sigh
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
Do something about your damn pants!
OH, I GIVE UP! YOU'RE JUST CLUELESS!
IT MUST BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR GENIE...
HANGING AROUND WITH PEOPLE LIKE THIS...

EVERY-ONE WANTS YOU TO COME BACK.
BUT I GUESS YOU'RE STILL ANGRY, HUH?
WELL, THAT'S WHY...
PAT ポ
YOU WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG.
I'M NOT ANGRY AT ALL.
ANYHOW, WE SHOULD SET OUT AT ONCE.
AND SINCE YOU CAN SUMMON SPIRITS, YOU SHOULD COME WITH US.
GENIE...
AN ADVENTURING WE WILL GO! HOORAY!
I'LL BE GLAD TO!

HUH?
I'M NOT GOING INTO TOWN.
WE'LL SET UP CAMP NEARBY.
I'M NOT STOPPING THERE.
YOU CAN REST THERE, AND...
WE'LL MAKE THE VILLAGE BY NIGHTFALL.
THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, EH GENIE?
MEANWHILE, WE'LL LOCATE THE SOURCE OF THE SPIRITS THAT ARE ATTACKING THE VILLAGE.
BUT I'D RATHER LET THE VILLAGE TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.
WE'LL SEE HOW THINGS GO.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA, SORCERER?
FLINCH
YEAH ... WHAT MADE THE FRAU GO NUTS ANYWAY?

C'MON, BIG SIS! HURRY!
ADVENTURE, ADVENTURE! MY FISTS CAN'T WAAAIT!
GENIE MIGHT BE LEAVING US.
I'D HATE TO THINK THAT...
sigh ...
I'M SORRY!
Hee hee!
DON'T GO PRANCING AROUND LIKE THAT, LUDA. IT COULD BE DANGEROUS.

WOULD YOU SHUT THE HECK UP?!
YEEEARGH
I'LL DO IT! I'LL WIPE THAT MESS UP, JUST YOU WAIT!!
THWUMP
SCUFF
AUGH!

AND NONE OF THEM HAVE ANY SENSE OF TEAM-WORK.
GOD, HE'S JUST MORE BAGGAGE...
YOU GOT OUR STUFF ALL DIRTY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DIMWIT?
OW...
BWACK

THE WEATHER WAS MESSED UP (LIKE SNOW IN SUMMER AND STUFF)...
THE SPIRITS THAT CONTROL NATURE WENT MAD.
A MAGICAL WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE SOME SORCERER MADE HAD GONE OUT OF CONTROL.
HMMMM...
Louie's brain operating at full capacity
WELL, WE'VE FOUGHT CRAZED SPIRITS BEFORE, BUT THAT WAS...
AN IDEA?
JUST TRY USING THAT MUSCLE-HEAD OF YOURS.

A MAGICAL WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE?!
GASP

A SORCERER SHOULD CLEAN UP A SORCERER'S MESS.
SO THAT'S WHY SHE NEEDED ME!
YOU FINALLY GET IT, HUH?
D-D-DON'T TELL ME...
I THINK THERE'S A CONNECTION.
THERE WAS SOME REALLY UNUSUAL WEATHER RIGHT BEFORE THE DISASTER.

AH...
I JUST CAN'T SLEEP.
YEAH.
MELISSA.
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT GENIE, AREN'T YOU?
MERRILL.
SHE BROKE THE LAW.
LIKE, WHAT MADE HER LEAVE HER VILLAGE?
THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT.
GRARMMM
KARMMM

GENIE IS KIND AND COURAGEOUS-- AND SHE SAVED ME!
AFTER THAT, THE LAW WAS CHANGED.
NOW IT'S OKAY TO USE THE VILLAGE'S ICE IN SPECIAL SITUA-TIONS...
YOU'RE RIGHT. AND THERE WAS NO NEED FOR HER TO LEAVE, EITHER.
SHE'S THE BEST CHOICE TO BE OUR LEADER!
THAT'S WHY WE ALL WANT HER TO COME BACK.

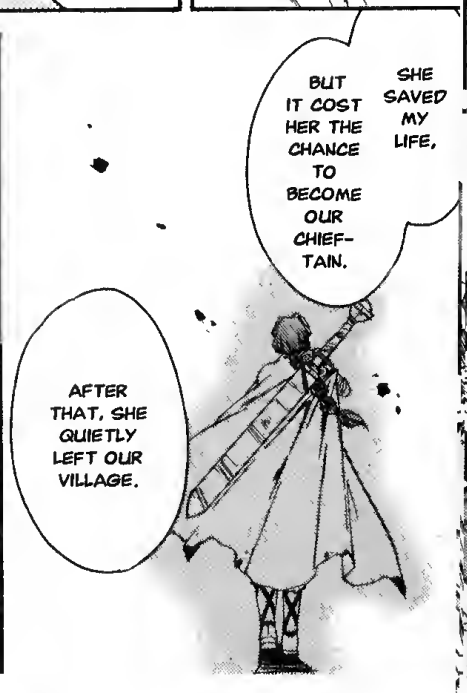
GENIE...
THE LAW IS THE LAW, AND I BROKE IT.
THIS GIRL IS BLAMING HERSELF.
LUDA.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT IT UP IN THE FIRST PLACE.
GRASP

ONE DAY I GOT A TERRIBLE FEVER.
TO SAVE YOU?
IT JUST WOULDN'T GO DOWN, SO GENIE...

ICE IS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY FOR US...
STOLE SOME ICE FROM OUR VILLAGE ICE HOUSE.

SHE DID IT TO SAVE MY LIFE.

WHAT THE HELL?! SHE DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WRONG!
GASP


SHE SAVED MY LIFE,
BUT IT COST HER THE CHANCE TO BECOME OUR CHIEF-TAIN.
AFTER THAT, SHE QUIETLY LEFT OUR VILLAGE.

ADVENTURE?!
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE WAS LISTENING.
OH. JUST A DREAM...
HEY! WAKE YOUR ASS UP!
THERE ARE SPIRITS NEARBY.
IT'S TIME FOR SWORDS AND MAGIC!
THEN BUCKLE IT BACK UP NOW!
rattle
AH, DAMN. MUST'VE UNBUCKLED MY BELT WHEN I WENT TO SLEEP!
rattle
WHY NOT PULL YOUR PANTS BACK UP?
RUNE SOLDIER LOUIE, AT YOUR SERVICE!
BWISH
THIS GUY'S THE WORST!
CRIPES ...
キャっ!!
EEEK!
LUDA

WHAT'S WRONG?
THE SPIRITS! I CAN SENSE THEM COMING THIS WAY!
GASP
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
FWAP
ADVENTURE!
NYAAH!
HUH?
blink
blink
YOU CERTAINLY ARE A LIGHT SLEEPER.

STOP RIGHT THERE!
DASH
NOT THAT AGAIN!
Gather now in my hands!
YOU MORON!
YEEEARGH!
NOW THIS IS AN ADVENTURE!
B-SHOOM

THEY'RE HERE!
OH, MY... LOOK!
O, almighty power...
I KNOW, I KNOW...
YOU'RE UP, AMA-TEUR! GET MOVIN'!

HUH?
GENIE?
THWOK
SSSHK

THAT MAN... IS REALLY, REALLY DUMB.
sigh
HE WANTS TO PUMMEL THE ICE SPIRITS AGAIN.
THAT IDIOT.
GRRR...
WOULD YOU CUT THAT CRAP OUT?! YOU IDIOT
AMATEUR!
I THOUGHT
YOUR GOAL WAS TO BECOME STRONGER!

YOU PROBABLY COULD TAKE OUT THESE SPIRITS WITH YOUR FISTS...
BUT
WHAT KIND OF TRAINING WOULD THAT AMOUNT TO?!

GRIP
GRIP
ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO IT!
THE REST OF YOU STAND BACK!
FWOOOSH
WHY ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME TRYING TO GET A GUY LIKE THAT
FIGHTING WITH HIM IS ONLY GOING TO BE A BURDEN ON YOU, GENIE!
TO FIGHT WITH A SWORD?
BUT, GENIE... WHY?

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE STRONG...
THEN LEARN HOW TO USE A SWORD.
GRIN
RIGHT!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU ALL WAITING FOR SO LONG!
HEH HEH HEH
THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME FOR ME TO SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN REALLY DO!
WITNESS MY SPLENDOR!

ADVENTURE 19
THE LEGENDARY GIANT

WELL, YOU SEE...
AND HE'S A SORCERER, ISN'T HE?
WHY IS HE TRYING TO FIGHT?
LOUIE IS A SORCERER, BUT HE CAN'T REALLY USE MAGIC.
THE TRUTH IS, HE'S JUST A MUSCLE-HEAD WHO LOVES TO BRAWL.
GASP
GENIE ALWAYS SAYS
THAT SHE'D BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THAT LOSER...
I CAN'T BELIEVE
GENIE'S FIGHTING BACK TO BACK WITH HIM.

SWSH
VWOOSH
YEEARGH!
DAMN AMATEUR!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?
DON'T JUST SWING IT AROUND LIKE IT'S A CLUB!
I WASN'T SURE ABOUT THIS AT ALL.
YEP. PRETTY MUCH HOW I FIGURED ...
FWISH
WHY YOU...
HEY, WAIT!!
FWISH
I CAN'T GET 'EM!
VWSH

GRRRR, FINE DAMMIT!
THEN HOW ABOUT...
THIS?!
BWOOSH
WELL DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
I GOT IT!!
THERE'S MORE COMING!
I...
WHOA...

WAIT, DON'T TELL ME GENIE IS ACTUALLY...
TRYING TO MAKE HIM STRONGER...
NO! YOU NEED TO MOVE WITH YOUR WHOLE BODY!!
MAYBE SHE ACTUALLY IS PLANNING ON COMING HOME!
SO SHE CAN QUIT BEING AN ADVEN-TURER HERSELF!

I COULD'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT MYSELF!
THAT WAS JUST STUPID!
ZBWASH
Damn
HNGH
SORRY.
MY BODY JUST MOVED ON ITS OWN.
IS TO BE LIKE YOU.
WHAT I WANT...
THERE'S NOBODY STRONGER THAN YOU, GENIE.
SKSH
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL?!
FWSH
WATCH OUT...
LOOK OUT!
WHOOSH
BIG SIS!
SPWSSSH
OH, NO...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO IF YOU CONTINUE TO BE SUCH A BURDEN!
EVEN IF WE ARE UNSURE ABOUT IT,
YOU'RE MORE THAN JUST A FRIEND.
A FRIEND...
SO GET STRONGER, ALRIGHT?
YOU HEAR ME, SORCERER?
OH...
Heh

LOUIE...
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU WORTH TO GENIE?
I'M SURE THAT WORKS FINE FOR YOU...
CLENCH
BESIDES, SHE'S COMING HOME TO OUR VILLAGE!
YOU SURE ARE SELFISH.
SKSH

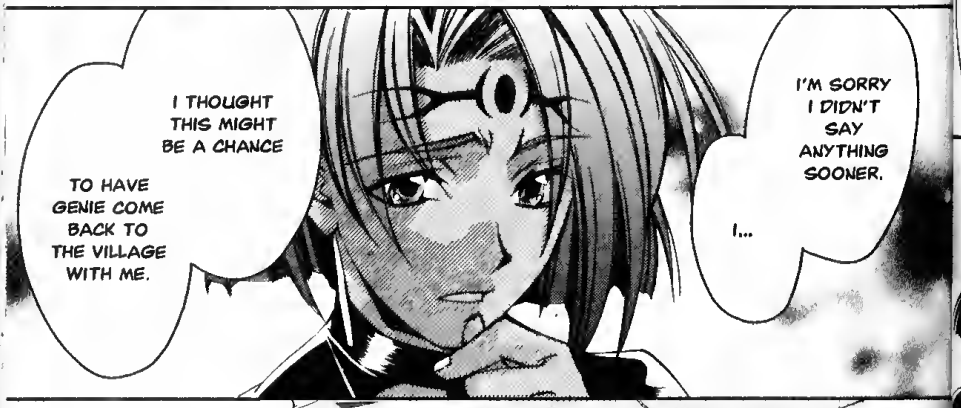
ANY DOUBTS ABOUT GENIE, THOUGH.
WHAT'RE YOU ALL WORRIED ABOUT?
HE DOESN'T HAVE...
あいつだけは……
DAMN!
GEEZ! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
SHE HASN'T CHANGED.
ここのジーニ姉さんも
GENIE'S JUST LIKE SHE WAS BACK THEN... WHEN SHE LIVED IN OUR VILLAGE.

HUH? WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?
GENIE WAS THINKING OF US ALL ALONG.
SHE'S DETERMINED TO TRAIN HIM, AT ANY COST.
ALL RIGHT!
YOU JUST SHOW ME THE WAY, GENIE!
NOW I SEE...
YEAH, THAT'S JUST LIKE GENIE, HUH?
OH...
Ha ha!
WOW... I WENT AND GOT WORRIED OVER NOTHING.

I GUESS THE ICE SPIRITS WENT OUT OF CONTROL 'CUZ THEY WERE SUMMONED IN THE WRONG SEASON, HUH?
YES.
Ha ha ha ha ha

BUT WHEN HE REALIZED IT WAS STILL SUMMER ...
HE WENT INTO THE ICE HOUSE.

HE MUST HAVE CALLED THE ICE SPIRITS TO HELP MAKE HIM A PATH BACK UP TO THE MOUNTAINS.
MAKES SENSE.


I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A CHANCE TO HAVE GENIE COME BACK TO THE VILLAGE WITH ME.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING SOONER.
I...

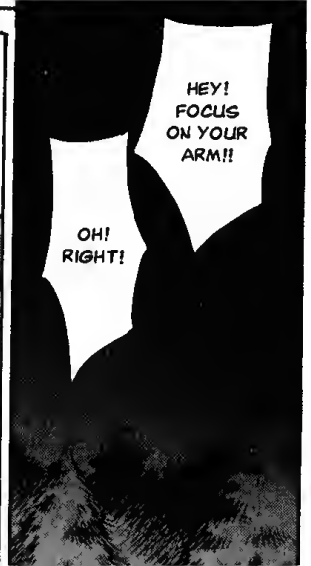
PAT

YOU KNEW WHY THE SPIRITS CAME?!
WHAT?!

THEY WERE SUMMONED BY A FROST GIANT, WHO HAS TAKEN REFUGE IN OUR VILLAGE'S ICE HOUSE.
I WAS ABLE TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY WERE COMING FROM.
DON'T FORGET I'M A SPIRIT SUM-MONER.

YES... HE MUST HAVE COME DOWN FROM HIS MOUNTAIN, THINKING IT WAS ALREADY WINTER.
YOU MEAN ONE OF THE LEGENDARY GIANTS?

SHE SAVED OUR VILLAGE...
SHE'S KIND AND BRAVE, JUST LIKE ALWAYS.


HEY! FOCUS ON YOUR ARM!!
OH! RIGHT!

I GOTTA GO KICK THAT GIANT RIGHT ON BACK TO HIS MOUNTAIN!
WELL ANYHOW, IT'S NOT CASE CLOSED JUST YET, IS IT?

Huh?
What?
THE FROST GIANTS ARE PEACEFUL!
THERE'S NO NEED TO FIGHT HIM!

THWOCK
MORON!!
MY OLD "FROST GIANT BUSTER" IS JUST AS DEVASTATING AS MY "DRAGON SLAYER"!

THAT'S WHY WE KEEP TELLING YOU TO STUDY-- SO YOU'LL KNOW STUFF LIKE THIS!!
おのバカ! F*CKIN' IDIOT!
LIKE, THE FOREST GIANTS WERE GENTLE, BUT THE FROST AND FIRE GIANTS WERE THE VIOLENT ONES...
WHOA, THAT'S SO WEIRD! I THOUGHT,
HMM

BUT WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO TELL US ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WELL...
HUH?
I GUESS BECAUSE OF YOUR BAGBOY THERE.

THANKS, LUDA.

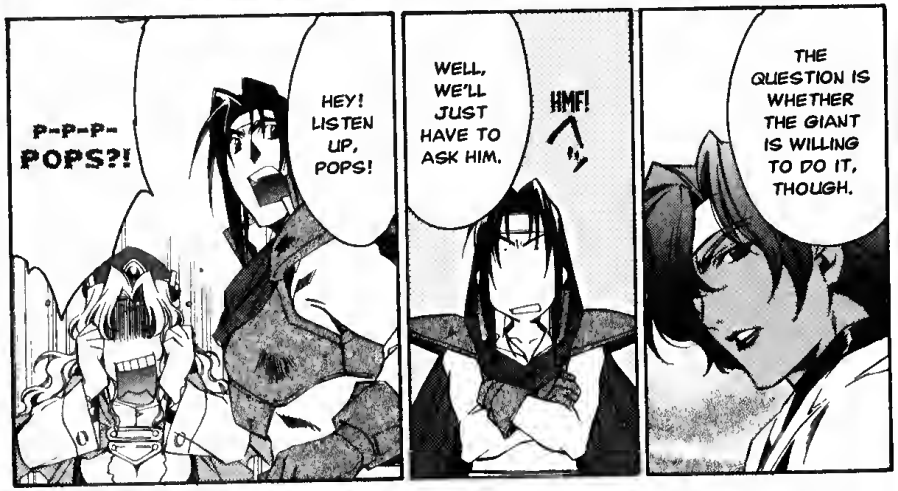
?
SO YOU FINALLY MANAGED TO HOLD YOUR OWN.
HUH? HOLD MY OWN WHAT?

BECAUSE OF ME?
? ?
nya nya

WHAT ARE YOU ABOUT?
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?
SHADDUP!
おらぁ!
OH MY GOD!
SPARE ME THE STUCK UP ATTITUDE, PAL! WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOUR SORRY ASS!
WHADDYA MEAN, WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?!
SNAP
HM?
Geesh!
TRUE ENOUGH... BUT IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE RIGHT NOW?
THEN LET'S JUST LEAVE 'IM.
YEAH! YOU HAVE A DUTY TO RESCUE HIM!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SPEAKING TO A HOLY GIANT THAT WAY?!
ANGER!

UH, IT'S OKAY. NO NEED FOR THANKS.
THANKS SO MUCH, EVERY-ONE!
NO KIDDING!
ANYHOW, WE SHOULD GO CHECK OUT THAT ICE HOUSE.
CIGGLE
HEH HEH HEH
AFTER ALL, THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS TROUBLE IS PROBABLY A CERTAIN MAGICAL WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE THAT A SORCERER MADE...

HEY, GIVE ME SOME CREDIT HERE!
YEAH, I GUESS IT WOULD TAKE CARE OF ALL THIS...
IT'S GONNA BE A COLD SUMMER, HUH?
THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA AT ALL.


P-P-P-POPS?!
HEY! LISTEN UP, POPS!
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO ASK HIM.
HMF!
THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE GIANT IS WILLING TO DO IT, THOUGH.

YEP, THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU'RE ASKING ME TO STAY HERE, LIKE THIS?
You got it.

I FIGURE WE SHOULD ASK YOU FIRST.
SO WOULD YA MIND SLEEPIN' HERE UNTIL WINTER?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, FROST GIANTS CAN CAST SOME HIGH-LEVEL ELEMENTAL SPELL CALLED "ICE COFFIN."
WHAT?!
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE TO RESCUE HIM!
ズ...?!
HUH?!
IF WE COULD GET HIM TO USE THAT SPELL TO KEEP HIMSELF SURROUNDED IN ICE...

HOW 'BOUT THAT?!
THEN LUDA COULD USE HER ELEMENTAL MAGIC TO CAST A SLEEPING SPELL ON HIM!
THAT WAY HE COULD SLEEP HERE UNTIL WINTER.
AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO USE ANY OF HIS OWN POWER IN THE MEANTIME!

VERY WELL.
I SHALL DO AS YOU ASK.
HA HA HA HA HA
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I MET...
A MAN BRAZEN ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE ME TO A FIGHT!

BUT WHAT IF I REFUSE?
AN INTERESTING PROPOSAL...

WHA...
THE FOOL!

IN THAT CASE, I'LL JUST HAVE TO...
BUST YOUR ASS!

SEE YOU AGAIN SOMETIME, ALL RIGHT?
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, GENIE!
YEAH... I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
GENIE!
LUDA...
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS GUY...
THANKS A BUNCH, POPS!
HEY, I CALL 'EM LIKE I SEE 'EM!
COULD YOU NOT FRICKIN' CALL HIM POPS?!
A MAGICIAN WHO LOVES FIST FIGHTING...
THAT PEOPLE JUST SEEM TO BE DRAWN TO HIM.
HE'S VERY OFFBEAT, BUT ALSO SO HONEST AND STRAIGHTFORWARD...
AN UNUSUAL PERSON.
HE REALLY IS...
LUDA.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S SETTLED.

MY BONES...
MY WHOLE BODY IS...
MELTING!!
HEH HEH HEH. LOOKS LIKE IT WORKED.
AND EVEN BETTER THAN I'D EXPECTED!
ARRRRGH
あああ!
COME ON, GUYS. LET'S GO HOME!
BACK TO FAHN!
HUH? WHERE'D I LEAVE ALL OUR STUFF?
HE IS A DOPE, AFTER ALL.

THE EXPERIMENT WORKED.
EH?!
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
ADVENTURE 20
THE RING OF TIME
JUST SOME NASTY OLD WITCH!
DASH
NO... WAIT!
COME BACK!

IS THIS A DREAM?
OR REALITY?
THIS IS LOUIE FROM 10 YEARS AGO. AM I SEEING THINGS?
BUT LOUIE HAS ALREADY GROWN INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN...
WRINKLE
しわ
Mirror
しわ
WRINKLE
BUT IF SO, WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH... I'M SORRY, LOUIE.
IT'S TERRIBLE!
SOME EVIL WITCH IS IN THE SORCERER'S GUILD! SHE'S WEARING GLASSES, AND...
HEY!
NO, IT IS REALITY! MY REFLECTION IN THIS MIRROR IS PROOF ENOUGH!
AUNT JENNY!!
WHIRL
LISTEN UP!
BAM
THMP
THMP
THMP
THMP
WAIT! LOUIE!!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE RACKET?
THIS IS TERRIBLE, AUNT JENNY!
L...
LOUIE?!
HUFF
HUFF

WE'VE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF THAT WITCH QUICK...
AND SAVE EVERYONE IN THE GUILD!!
IT WOULD SEEM THAT...
AUNT JENNY!
LOUIE'S MIND AND MEMORIES HAVE REVERTED ALONG WITH HIS BODY.
AREN'T YOU LISTENING?!
GRAB
OKAY!
GREAT IDEA, LOUIE!
I KNOW YOU CAN DEFEAT HER!
HUH?
BUT AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP, AUNT JENNY?

THAT RING...
WAIT A MINUTE, WEARING GLASSES?
NOW I GET IT...
ANOTHER OF ILA'S MAGIC ITEMS MUST BE TO BLAME FOR THIS.
JUST PROOF THIS IS INDEED REALITY.
WELL, YOU LOOK ALL WRINKLED...
HUH? WHY DO YOU ASK?
BY THE WAY, AUNT JENNY... ARE YOU TIRED OR SOMETHING?

COME ON, LOUIE. CHEER UP!
BUT THAT ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT OF YOURS IS WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT.
I DON'T THINK YOUR FOSTER FATHER, CARWESS, WOULD BE TOO HAPPY.
IF YOU DID THAT...
CLASP
YOU MEAN I CAN DO IT?
OF COURSE YOU CAN!
AUNT JENNY WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET RID OF THAT OLD WITCH!
REALLY?!
WELL? THINK YOU CAN DO IT?
WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS STEAL THEM FROM HER.
I'LL BET THAT WITCH'S GLASSES HAVE MAGICAL POWERS.

BUT, BUT...
I'M SORRY!
I CAN'T INVOLVE MYSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE SORCERER'S GUILD, LOUIE!
AND I NEVER USED A SWORD BEFORE, EITHER!
I DON'T KNOW ANY SPELLS YET.
OH, LOUIE...
SCRANG
INSTEAD OF STUDYING MAGIC.
YOU KNOW, I'D RATHER LEARN HOW TO SWORD-FIGHT...
AUNT JENNY...
LOUIE...

YEAH, I THINK SO! I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!
I'M GONNA TAKE THAT WITCH DOWN!
YOU'RE THE GREATEST, LOUIE! ♡
THANKS, AUNT JENNY!
HEH HEH. I THINK THAT FOR ONCE...
I'LL SET THE STAGE FOR ONE OF LOUIE'S ADVENTURES.
FIRST, I'LL HAVE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ILA.
AND THEN...
A WITCH HAS TAKEN OVER THE SORCERER'S GUILD?!
THAT'S CRAZY!
ニなアホな!
WHAT?!
I WAS AMAZED MYSELF WHEN HIGH PRIESTESS JENNY TOLD ME THE NEWS.
SUPPOSEDLY, THE WITCH HAS HOLED HERSELF UP IN A SHACK SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE CITY.
Nya!
THIS BOY IS ALSO A VICTIM OF THE WITCH'S MAGIC, SO...
SO HE WANTS US TO GO TAKE CARE OF HER, RIGHT?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY.

INDEED...
WHOA, I NEVER KNEW THERE WERE SUCH NICE KIDS IN THE GUILD!
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
ペコり!
BOW
TOTALLY UNLIKE A CERTAIN GUY I KNOW...
IT'S ALL ABOUT BABES 'N' BOOZE...
'N FIGHTIN'!
I'M SURE WE'LL BE FINE ON OUR OWN.
YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
Nya nyaa ♥
OH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU.
HEY, WHERE IS HE?
PROBABLY HANGING AROUND IN SOME SHADY PART OF TOWN.
OH YEAH?
Ho ho ho...
IT SEEMS HE'S DISAPPEARED AGAIN.
CAW
CAW
CAW

THE SPELL CAN ONLY BE BROKEN IF THE BOY FORCES THE WITCH TO UNDO IT ON HIS OWN.
WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DO IS GET HIM AS FAR AS THE WITCH'S HIDEOUT.
YOU'VE GOTTA HELP ME!
PLEASE!
IF I DON'T BEAT THAT BAD WITCH, SHE MIGHT ATTACK OTHER PEOPLE, TOO!
NO PROBLEM! YOU JUST LEAVE IT TO US!
YOU'LL BE JUST FINE!
HE IS SOOO CUTE!
YEAH, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, KID.

AAAAH!
FWISH
SCRISH
HEY, THAT'S FINE...
THAT HE'D BE COMING WITH US!
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY KNEW ...
SPRING

WE MADE IT.
SO THIS IS THE WITCH'S HIDEOUT?
GASP
CRACK
SKRIK
KRKK
SKELETONS!!

WOW. THAT'S AWESOME...
SSSNK
NO, I WASN'T...
BUT, IT STINKS THAT THERE WASN'T ANYTHING I COULD DO.
YOU WEREN'T SCARED, WERE YOU?
YOU ALL RIGHT, BOY?
RIGHT. MOST PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN PETRIFIED WITH FEAR.
BUT YOU DID GREAT!
HE'S SO CUTE!

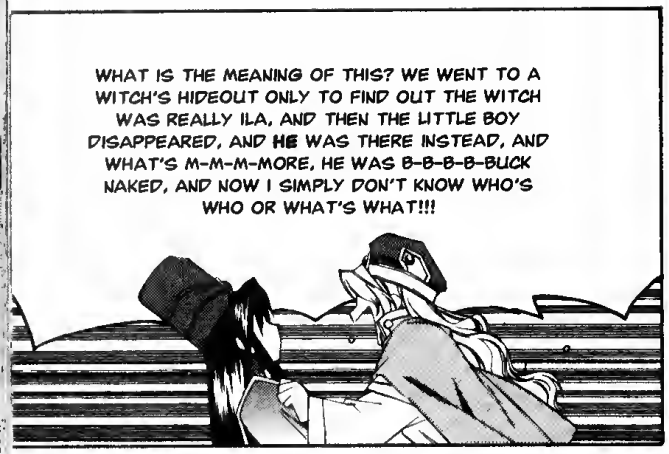
BECAUSE NOW IT'S MORE OF AN ADVENTURE!
THA-BWACK
Foul creatures before me...
Begone now!
SCRACK
HAAA
BWHOOSH

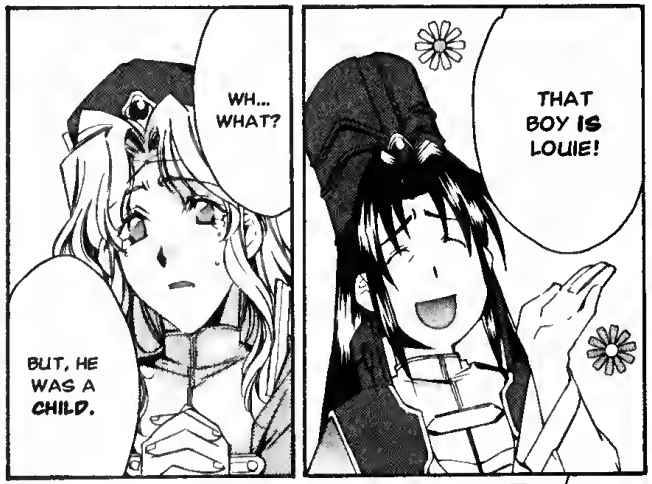
GRAMPS KEEPS TELLING ME I HAVE TO BECOME A SORCERER,
BUT I REALLY WANT TO BE A WARRIOR!
I WANT TO BECOME A STRONG MAN!
O.
STRONG ENOUGH SO I COULD PROTECT ALL OF YOU!
YOU'LL GO A LONG WAY, BOY.
YES, I'M SURE YOU'LL BE A GREAT MAN.
YOU ARE BOTH SINCERE AND KIND.
YOU'LL BE A GREAT WARRIOR, A FINE PROTECTOR OF WOMEN.
IF YOU WANT TO BE STRONG ...
THEN FOLLOW KING RIJARL'S EXAMPLE.
KING RIJARL?
YES. THE KING IS A TRUE HERO, WHO SLEW THE EVIL DRAGON, CRISH.
HIGH PRIESTESS JENNY ONCE SERVED HIM.
THEN I SHOULD BE LIKE... KING RIJARL!

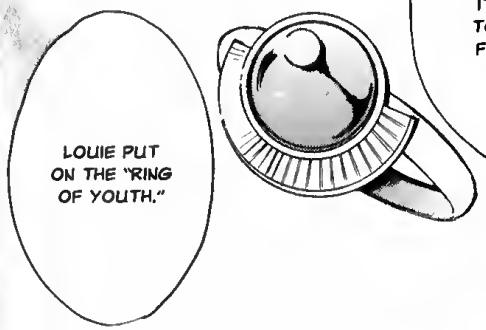
KA-THUD
CREAK
GRASP
WELL MET, BOY.
NOW THEN...
DO YOU STILL THINK YOU'LL DEFEAT ME?
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!
CLENCH

I...
I'M GOING TO BEAT THAT WITCH!
CLENCH
IF I WANT TO BE STRONG, THAT'S THE FIRST THING I SHOULD DO!
NO-- WAIT, GENIE!
THEN WE'LL GO...
LET HIM GO ALONE.
JENNY'S ORDERS WERE...
TO LET HIM GO IN ON HIS OWN.
I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHY, BUT I GET THE FEELING...
THAT WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH.

I KNOW YOU CAN.
I...
I'M GOING TO BE LIKE KING RIJARL.
SPRING
I'M GOING TO BE STRONG!!
FLASH
...
EEEEEK!
WAAAUGH
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
IT SOUND-ED FAMILIAR SOME-HOW...
LET'S GO SEE!
WHAM

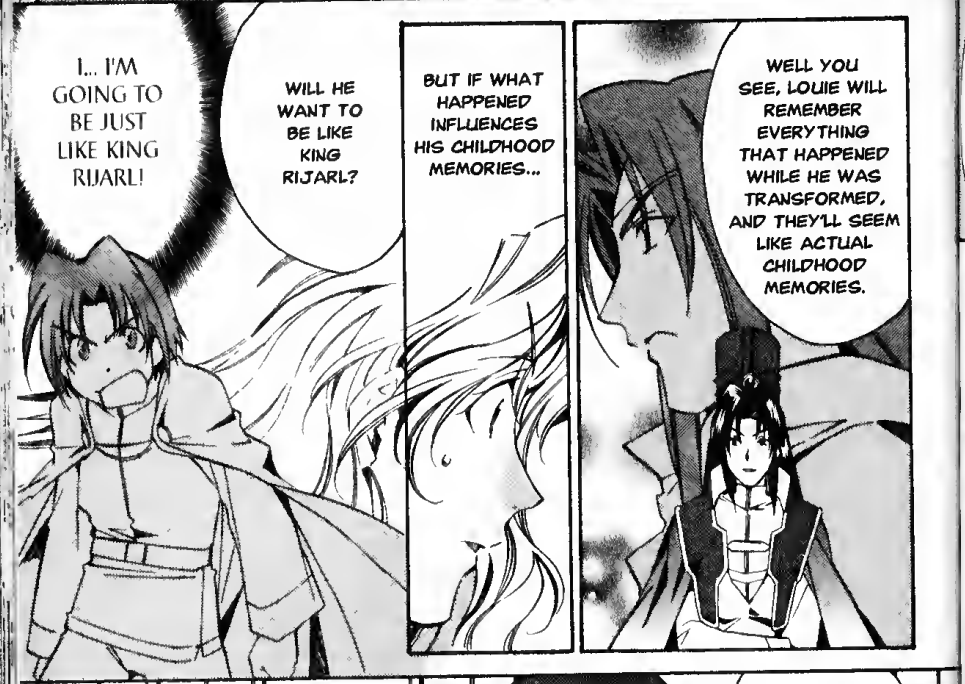

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? WE WENT TO A WITCH'S HIDEOUT ONLY TO FIND OUT THE WITCH WAS REALLY ILA, AND THEN THE LITTLE BOY DISAPPEARED, AND HE WAS THERE INSTEAD, AND WHAT'S M-M-M-MORE, HE WAS B-B-B-B-BUCK NAKED, AND NOW I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW WHO'S WHO OR WHAT'S WHAT!!!



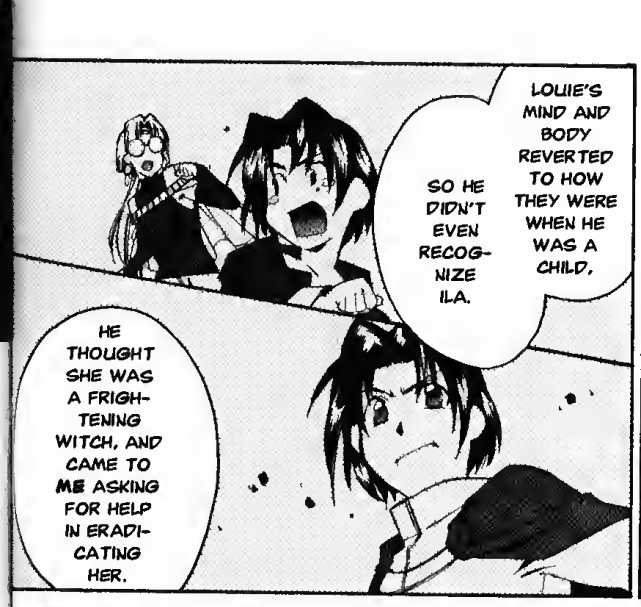


HIGH PRIESTESS JENNY!!

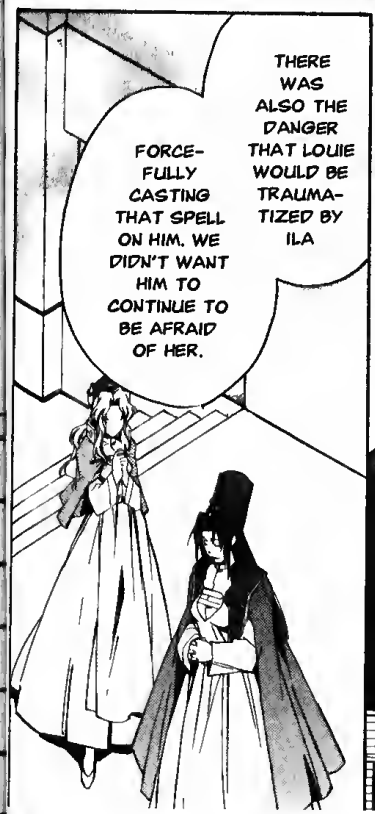
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.


I... I'M GOING TO BE JUST LIKE KING RIJARL!
WILL HE WANT TO BE LIKE KING RIJARL?
BUT IF WHAT HAPPENED INFLUENCES HIS CHILDHOOD MEMORIES...
WELL YOU SEE, LOUIE WILL REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS TRANSFORMED, AND THEY'LL SEEM LIKE ACTUAL CHILDHOOD MEMORIES.

I DO RECALL ONE TIME, BACK WHEN LOUIE WAS STILL LITTLE...
HE KEPT PESTERING ME TO TELL HIM WHAT KIND OF MAN THE KING WAS.


LOUIE'S MIND AND BODY REVERTED TO HOW THEY WERE WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.
SO HE DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ILA.
HE THOUGHT SHE WAS A FRIGHTENING WITCH, AND CAME TO ME ASKING FOR HELP IN ERADICATING HER.

?
THE RING OF YOUTH?


THERE WAS ALSO THE DANGER THAT LOUIE WOULD BE TRAUMATIZED BY ILA
FORCEFULLY CASTING THAT SPELL ON HIM. WE DIDN'T WANT HIM TO CONTINUE TO BE AFRAID OF HER.

I THINK THAT ADVENTURESOME SPIRIT OF HIS IS TRULY PRECIOUS...

SO I WENT TO ILA, AND WE STAGED A LITTLE "ADVENTURE" FOR LOUIE.
舞台!?
STAGED?!

HUH?!

AND NOW YOU TOLD LOUIE ABOUT RIJARL,
DIDN'T YOU?
THIS MUST BE FATE AT WORK HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MELISSA...
HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU WHAT KIND OF MAN RIJARL WAS?
CHUCKLE

IN HIS YOUTH, KING RIJARL WAS...
EXACTLY LIKE YOUR HERO IS RIGHT NOW!

SO UTTERLY UNSURE ABOUT ALL THIS!!!

ADVENTURE 21
A WISH FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
(PART 1)

THEN WE WERE CALLED IN TO CLEAN UP THE MESS. BUT AS IT TURNED OUT...
IT'S ALL BECAUSE HIS STUPID CLASSMATE WAS CARRYING OUT HUMAN EXPERIMENTS WITH HER "MAGIC ITEMS."
WHOMP
WE WERE ONLY ACTORS IN THEIR IDIOTIC FARCE.

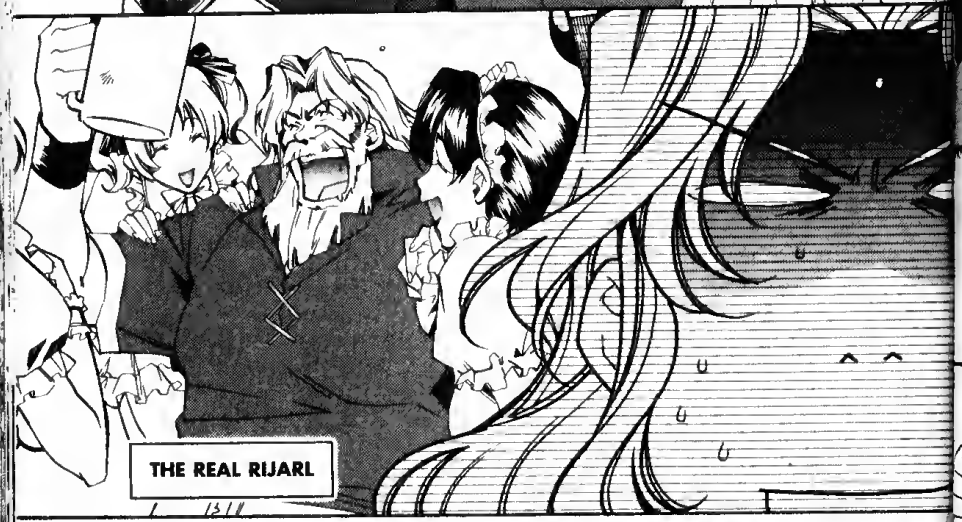
ARE YOU OKAY, MELISSA?

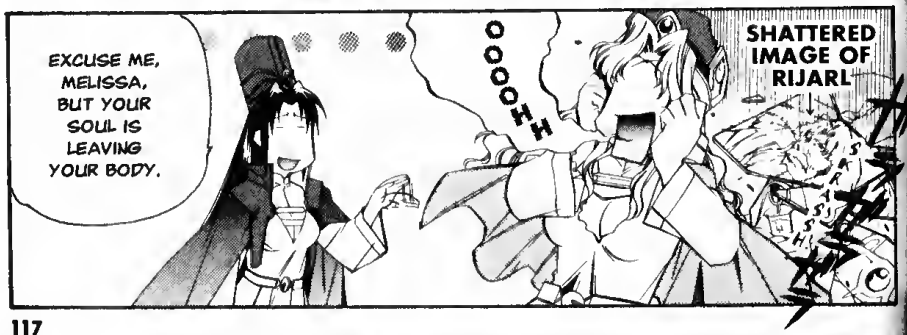
YES... YOU'RE RIGHT.
JEEZ! HOW DID HE EVER GROW UP TO BE LIKE HE IS NOW?
KONK
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YES.

THINK
OH, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

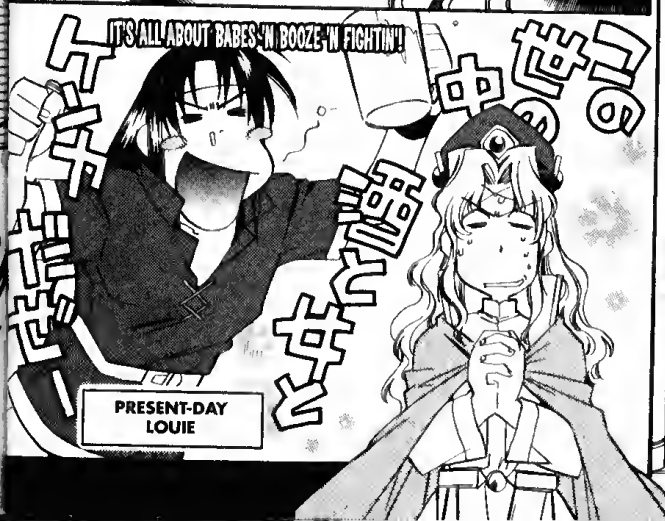
HOW COULD THAT NICE, LITTLE KID...
REALLY BE THAT IDIOT LOUIE?!

GASP
TH-
THEN
THAT MUST
MEAN...
MELISSA'S IMAGE
OF RIJARL


THE REAL RIJARL


EXCUSE ME,
MELISSA,
BUT YOUR
SOUL IS
LEAVING
YOUR BODY.
OOOOH
SHATTERED
IMAGE OF
RIJARL

LOUIE
SOUGHT TO
BE LIKE KING
RIJARL...
AND NOW
HE IS JUST
LIKE RIJARL
WAS.
WHAT?!
YOU
MEAN
LOUIE
IS...
LIKE
RIJARL
WHEN HE
WAS
YOUNG?!


IT'S ALL ABOUT BABES 'N BOOZE 'N FIGHTIN'!
PRESENT-DAY
LOUIE

AND
NOW
YOU
TOLD
LOUIE
ABOUT
RIJARL,
DIDN'T
YOU?

BUT YOU KNOW,
RIJARL REALLY IS THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR IN ALL THE LAND.
I...
HE IS TRULY A GREAT HERO.
I DIDN'T THINK LOUIE COULD BE A MAN OF VALOR.
I WAS MISTAKEN
IN THINKING I COULD JUDGE A HERO BY HIS NATURE...
BUT THERE'S MORE TO A HERO THAN JUST THAT.
SO YOU'VE FINALLY REALIZED.
A TRUE HERO IS COURAGEOUS IN BODY, MIND, SPIRIT, AND CHARACTER.
THEN WHAT...
IF MYLEE HAS REVEALED THAT LOUIE IS THE ONE,
THEN MAKE NO MISTAKE-- HE WILL BE A HERO.
HAVE I BEEN SO UNCERTAIN ABOUT?

I'D LIKE TO SEND YOU ON ANOTHER LITTLE ADVENTURE.
BUT...
WE MAY BE PRIES-TESSES, BUT...
WHY NOT USE IT AS A CHANCE TO...
WE'RE ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
REFLECT UPON YOURSELF AS A SERVANT OF MYLEE?
REFLECT UPON...
MYSELF?
HEY...
UP AGAINST YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU WERE HOLDING LOUIE...
CHUCKLE
DON'T BE SILLY.
IT IS YOUR DUTY TO SERVE HIM AS BEST YOU CAN.
SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU'D EXPECT YOUR HERO TO LIVE UP TO YOUR IDEALS.
I...
I'M NOT WORTHY TO BE A PRIESTESS!

A FEMALE APPARITION HAS BEEN HAUNTING A CEMETERY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.
YOU MEAN, LIKE...
BRR!
SUPPOSEDLY, THE GHOST WAS ONCE A PRIESTESS OF THE WAR GOD...

THERE'S SOME-THING ELSE...
YES, THOUGH I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT.
IT MIGHT MAR THE CHURCH'S REPU-TATION.
IF A FORMER PRIESTESS OF MYLEE IS HAUNTING SOME GRAVE-YARD,
I GET IT.

HEY!
GASP
MELISSA! SNAP OUT OF IT!
OH...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU FEELING OKAY?

THE UNDEAD?!
IT INVOLVES PUTTING THE UNDEAD TO REST.
SCOOCH

I'M SORRY, MERRILL.
IT'S NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL!
ORDERS?
More work?
I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE NEW ORDERS I RECEIVED FROM THE HIGH PRIES-TESS.
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY,

I'M GOING TO ASK LOUIE TO COME WITH US AND HELP.
I GUESS MELISSA'S NOT WELL, AFTER ALL.
PSST...
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
イエ〜イ!!
AWW. YEAH!
I GUESS WE'RE UP FOR SOME GHOST-BUSTIN', HUH?
HEY, WHAT'S UP?
I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING YOU!
ドサ〜ッ
RIGHT ON CUE...
BUT, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH,
I DON'T REALLY WANNA TANGLE WITH THE UNDEAD.
ALL THEY'RE INTERESTED IN IS MESSING WITH THE LIVING.
THEY MAKE ENEMIES OUTTA ANYTHING THAT'S ALIVE! THAT AIN'T COOL AT ALL!
HOWEVER!
YOU'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT!
キッ
SNAP
NO MATTER WHO THE OPPONENT IS, JUST LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL BEAT THE--
I SAID PUT THEM TO REST, NOT PUMMEL THEM!
AWWW...
Seriously?
DAMN
WHAT A PAIN!

DASH
OH...
EAT THIS!
LEAP
NO, WAIT! LOUIE!!
IT'S OKAY, MELISSA.
YOU CAN'T BEAT A GHOST WITH A SWORD.
VWISH
YEARGH

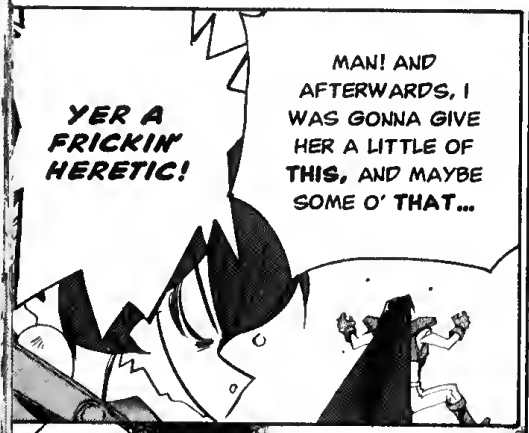
GASP
FLICKER
THERE IT IS! THE SPOOK!

I HAVE COME TO HELP YOU.
I AM MELISSA, AN ACOLYTE OF MYLEE.
WOULD YOU JUST STAND BACK, PLEASE?!
THIS AIN'T EXACTLY WHAT I PICTURED.
BUT FIRST, MAY I ASK YOUR NAME, AND WHY YOUR SPIRIT HAS WANDERED HERE?
?
WHAT THE HECK?
HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOU?
Please, purify my spirit.
I can't bear to be like this...
My name is Martina.
And I'm afraid that...
I don't KNOW why my spirit remains in this place.
Why have I become one of the UNDEAD?

WELL ANYHOW,
THE BOTTOM LINE IS SHE'S HERE LIKE THIS NOW!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU KNOW SO MUCH?!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY...
THEN LET'S GO FIND OUT WHAT YOU LEFT BEHIND!
Wha?

I was a servant of GOD! Oh, what a disgrace...
C'MON NOW, IT AIN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL!
YOU MAYVE BEEN A PRIESTESS, BUT YOU WERE STILL ONLY HUMAN.
YOU MUSTVE ENDED UP LEAVING SOME PART OF YOURSELF BEHIND.
IT'S JUST, WITH YOUR SPIRITUALITY AND STRONG SENSE OF DUTY...

UH...
GRASPING
THIN AIR


YER A FRICKIN' HERETIC!
MAN! AND AFTERWARDS, I WAS GONNA GIVE HER A LITTLE OF THIS, AND MAYBE SOME O' THAT...

YAUGH!
THIS MEANS WE CAN'T GO DRINKING TOGETHER!!
YOU GOT ONE MESSED UP MIND.

YOU OKAY, MELISSA?
O Lord, how am I going ta deal with this man?

DON'T FRICKIN' HIT ON HER!
FIRST, LET'S GO GET A COUPLE OF DRINKS!!
HEY, NOW! JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
But how will we ever...

WHY?
HUH?

IT WILL PROBABLY BE VERY DIFFICULT, THOUGH.
STILL...
LOOK AT YOUR HAND.
SEARCHING FOR SOME ATTACHMENT OR LINGERING REGRET MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA.

UH...
ME?
HMPH!
FINE. YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?
THAT'S WAY TOO DANGEROUS, STUPID!
MELISSA!
AND WHO EXACTLY DO YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO POSSESS?
GRIN
HEY, I JUST HAD A GREAT IDEA!
♪
What? Y-yes, I suppose so.
SPIRITS CAN POSSESS PEOPLE, RIGHT?
Oh, really?
IT WAS, UH, ONLY A JOKE.
Then why're your eyes red?
THEN YOU CAN GO DO WHATEVER YA WANT!
WHY NOT POSSESS SOMEONE?
WELL IF YOU WANT A BODY,

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT MEANS?!
IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!
WE CAN'T LET MELISSA BE POSSESSED BY A GHOST!
SAY WHAT YOU WANT, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!
えっ?!
HUH?!
IF MELISSA SPENDS MORE THAN A NIGHT POSSESSED,
HER OWN SOUL WILL LEAVE HER BODY!

ADVENTURE 22
A WISH FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
(PART 2)

FIND OUT WHAT'S KEEPING MARTINA'S SPIRIT HERE. AND MAKE SURE YOU DO IT BEFORE DAWN!
NOW LISTEN, LOUIE.
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU.
MARTINA MAY USE MY BODY.
VERY WELL.
WHAT?
MELISSA ...
ADVENTURE 22
A WISH FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
(PART 2)

I'm sorry to trouble you so...
COME THEN, MARTINA!
BUT, MELISSA... WHY?
MELISSA...
ALL RIGHT!! YOU JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
I'LL MAKE SURE WE PUT HER TO REST!
LOUIE MAY NOT BE THE KIND OF HERO YOU HAD EXPECTED...
BUT UNLESS YOU ACCEPT HIM FOR WHAT HE REALLY IS...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY-WHERE.
I'LL DO IT.
OH, NO!
OH, JENNY...
I WILL TRY AND REFLECT UPON MYSELF.

GRAB
WELL, NOW THAT WE GOT THE DETAILS OUTTA THE WAY...
LET'S GO, MARTINA! COME ON!
HEH!
NO ONE SAID YOU WERE INVITED!
Some-body! HELP!!
WHERE DO YA THINK YER GOING?!
WHOA, HOLD ON A SECOND!
OKAY!
Oh my God!
MELISSA'S SPIRIT

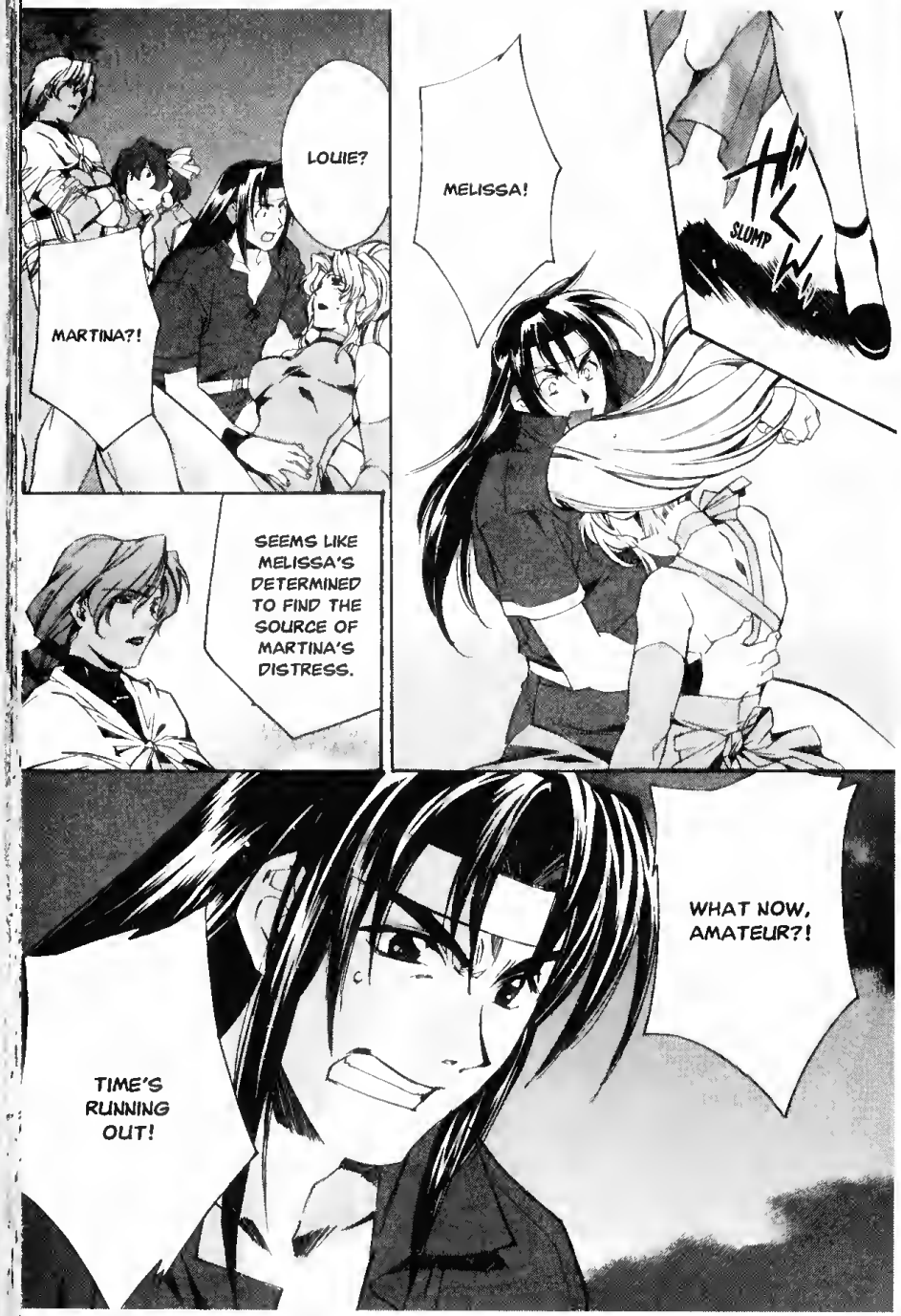
SHP
MELISSA?
LOUIE...
What the?!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL SET NOW!
WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT YOU LEFT BEHIND!
LET'S GET MOVIN'!

My body's in BIG trouble!
LOUIE...
WH... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?
MMM. LOOKS REAL GOOD!
OKAY, THE NEXT STOP IS...
WELL, THEN!
I'LL EXPRESS MY APOLOGY WITH A SPECIAL PARTY DANCE!
HUH?!
OH YEAH?
FWIP
BAM
Oh, my!
Show us what ya got!
'Atta boy!
NOOOO
IT'S GOOD!
GIGGLE
Martina...
NOW THIS IS THE LIFE!
AHHH!
THAT HIT THE SPOT!
TUNK
Dirtbag!
OH, SORRY! HOW RUDE OF ME.

WELL? DID YOU HAVE FUN?
YES, I DID!
BUT...
AND HERE I WAS THINKIN' THE THING A PRIESTESS OR ONE OF THOSE STUFFY TYPES WOULD REGRET IS NEVER HAVING LET LOOSE.
More like YOU just wanted to have fun!
OH, I SEE. YOU DIDN'T FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS, HUH?
YAAAH!
FLINCH

I DON'T KNOW...
CAN WE REALLY TRUST YOU TO RETURN MELISSA'S BODY?
PLEASE LEAVE HER BODY, NOW.
THERE'S HARDLY ANY TIME LEFT, ANYWAY.
MARTINA!
LOUIE...
EVEN THOUGH I'M ONLY A SPIRIT NOW.
WELL, AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO ENJOY A NICE EVENING...
YOU'RE RIGHT.

KA-BWACK
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHO DO YA THINK YA ARE, PARADING AROUND WITH MELISSA'S BODY LIKE THAT?
Yes.
Not again!
YOU FRICKIN' IDIOT!
I'M SORRY MARTINA, BUT...
C'MON! IT'S NO PROBLEM IF SHE STAYS A LITTLE LONGER!
I'M AFRAID THIS IS IT.
IT'S ALMOST DAWN.

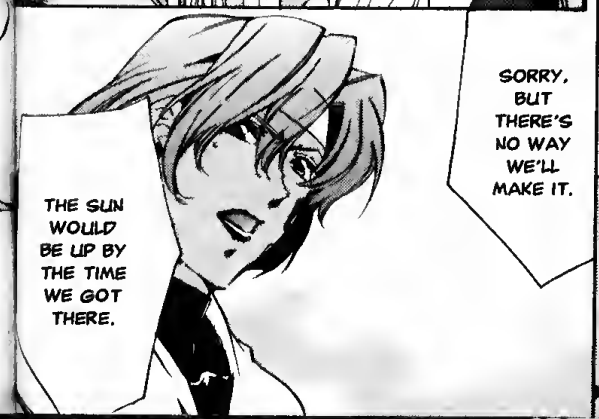

LOUIE?
MARTINA?!
SEEMS LIKE MELISSA'S DETERMINED TO FIND THE SOURCE OF MARTINA'S DISTRESS.
MELISSA!
SLUMP
WHAT NOW, AMATEUR?!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT!

No, you mustn't! Martina!
WHAT WAS THAT?
WAS THAT MELISSA TALKING?
I... I'M NOT GIVING UP YET!
MELISSA MUST HAVE REGAINED CONTROL OF HER BODY FOR A SECOND.
THERE'S STILL TIME BEFORE DAWN.
BA-DMP

I KNOW OF A CERTAIN...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
IF WE TAKE THE NORMAL ROUTE...
SHORTCUT THAT LEADS STRAIGHT TO FAHN HILL!
FWIP
OH, LOUIE...
LET'S GO, MARTINA!
I PROMISE I'LL GET YA THERE!

A SPECIAL PLACE...
I GUESS THERE IS ONE.
FAHN HILL.

HUH?!
FAHN HILL!


SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL MAKE IT.
THE SUN WOULD BE UP BY THE TIME WE GOT THERE.

MARTINA...
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN THINK OF?
SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO DO, MAYBE? OR A PLACE THAT'S SPECIAL TO YOU?

FAHN HILL IS UP THERE.
SKSH
HEH.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY A PIECE OF CAKE, THOUGH...
BUT, WE'RE AT THE BOTTOM OF A CLIFF!
MEL-ISSA DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND
GENIE...
WELL, IF SHE'S NOT GIVING UP...
SCHWIP
HE'S PULLING ANOTHER STUPID STUNT!
FWP
I WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO FLY UP IF I HAD MY MAGE STAFF... Maybe...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO TRY AND CLIMB THAT!
HUH?
HOP ON, MARTINA!
I'M CLIMBING, SO GET ON! QUICK!
B-BUT...

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO RELY ON YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH AGAIN!
USE THIS TO FASTEN HER ON YOUR BACK!
THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
TUG
GRIN
C'MON MARTINA!
HANG ON TIGHT, NOW.
ALL RIGHT!
"HUFF"
"HUFF"
"HUFF"
"HUFF"
IT'S SURE GETTIN' STEEP.
OH, NO!
GRASP
SKRSH

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THIS PLACE HOLDS ANYTHING SPECIAL TO ME!
YOU'RE RISKING SO MUCH FOR SOMETHING SO SMALL!
ARE YOU LISTENING, LOUIE?
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP 'TIL YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!
I WAS AFTER SOME-THING, TOO. BACK WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
WANTED TO BE REALLY STRONG...

PHEW... SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU...
huff
ON WE GO.
KRSH
GRASP
LOUIE...
LET'S GO BACK DOWN!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. PLEASE, STOP!

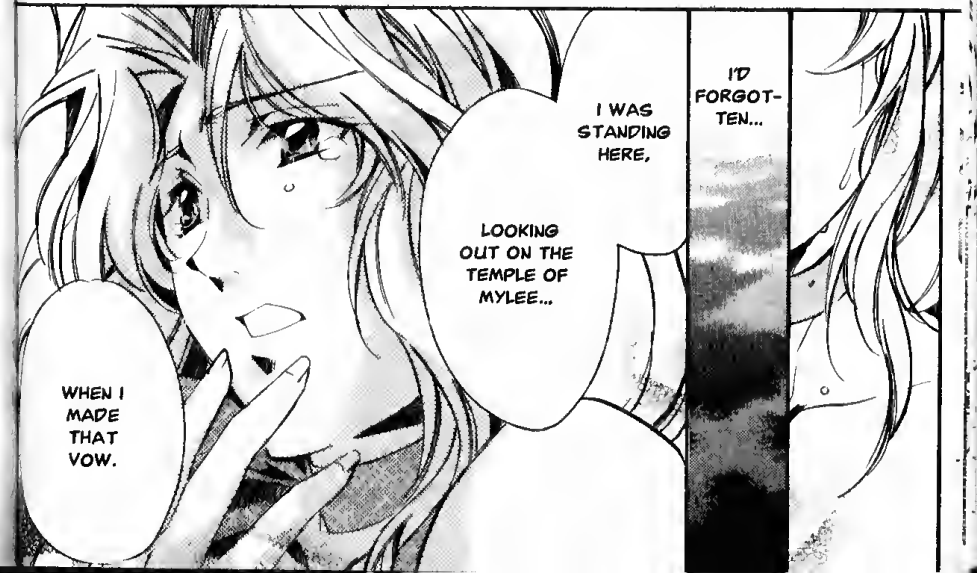
YOU SEE, IN A WAY...
I'M LIKE YOU.
THE WAR GOD HAS DECLARED THAT YOU ARE THE HERO WE MUST FOLLOW. WE ARE HERE TO SERVE AS YOUR COMPANIONS.
SO FORGET ABOUT IT, ALL RIGHT?
huff
HE...
OH, LOUIE!
HE'S TAKING HIS LIFE ONE STEP AT A TIME.
ALL RIGHT NOW, JUST A LITTLE FARTHER!

THANKS A BUNCH!
YOU WANTED TO BE STRONG?
JUST LIKE KING RIJARL!
I'M GONNA BE STRONG ONE DAY.
THEN ONE DAY,
I LITERALLY RAN INTO MY FUTURE, RIGHT THERE ON THE STREET.
SEEMED TO BE WHAT I WAS REALLY LOOKING FOR.
huff
I SPENT MY DAYS BOOZING AND BRAWLING.
BUT NONE OF THAT...

OH...
I-GRASP
SHP
ALL RIGHT! WE MADE IT!!
I...
BUT I HAD STOPPED...
EVER SINCE THAT TIME.
O-OKAY!
YOU GO ON AHEAD, MARTINA!
I'LL UNDO THE ROPE.

A VOW THAT I NEVER FULFILLED.

A REALLY DREAMY HERO!

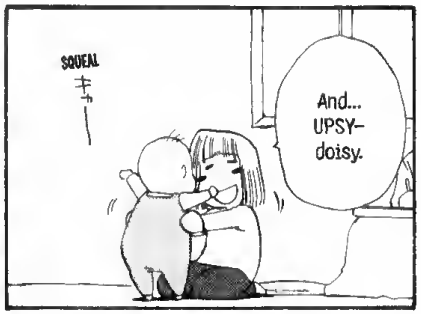


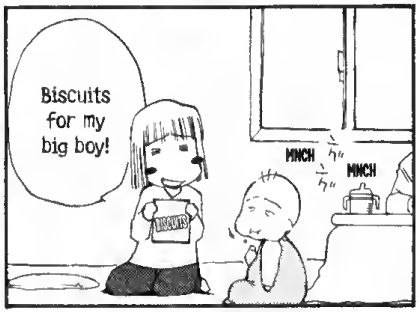
MARTINA...
I'm very happy...
To have met you.

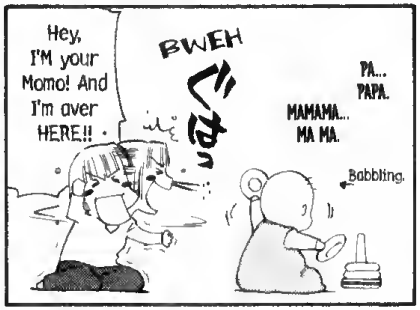
Yes. I did...
Thank you...
Thank you so much, Loule.

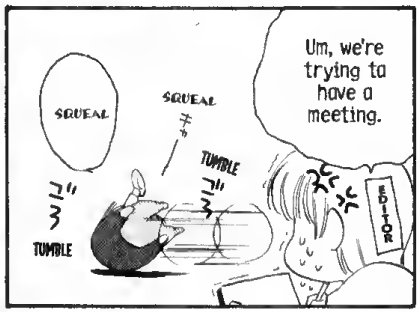
I TOTALLY FORGOT TO XXX MARTINA!!
RIGHT, MELISSA?
I WONDER WHAT SHE SAW IN HIM...
SURELY SOMETHING ...
?
WHOA!
OH, CRAP!
THAT I HAVEN'T YET NOTICED MYSELF.

THWUMP
WELL, THERE SHE GOES.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT MYSELF...
MARTINA...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS WORKED OUT, HUH?









SPECIAL THANKS

LOUIE THE RUNE SOLDIER 5

When the locals beg for help, the call to adventure beckons Louie once again, but his attempts at valor are thwarted by none other than Rijarl, King of Ohfun! This lecherous old man is giving Louie a run for his money, and not just in the game of sorcery! No tavern is big enough to hold the two boozing brutes, so Louie will have to settle their dispute the only way he knows how—with a bare-knuckle brawl! It's ruler against roamer for the punch-packing adventurer, *Louie the Rune Soldier!*